

readily found; and, from their being infinite, they are necessarily found. A number of spectators are looking at the two pictures;—taking into account the combination of distance with lateral position, I scarcely exaggerate when I say that, in linear perspective, the chances are 1,000 to 1 against any eye being in the point of sight: in cylindrical perspective, every eye looking at it must be in the point of sight! Strong probabilities in its favour!

The eye should be on the level of the horizontal line. The chances of error in this respect, of a wrong position of the eye, is the same in both systems, and how greatly it is violated may be seen in every exhibition.

The standard of excellence in all delineation is that it shall be proportional to the space it represents. In perspective, this property belongs alone to the spherical surface, a standard of excellence unapproachable, because it cannot be developed; but the cylinder is obviously a close approximation to it, perfect in the direction of horizontal length, and but slightly deviating in vertical height, which is generally the smallest dimension of the drawing.

Recurring again to the representations of linear perspective, their excellence surely is not owing solely to the fact, that they are correct projections as seen from an assumed point, for they are admired by all, though the point of view is never found; but their excellence is due to the practice which, from motives of prudence and propriety, has properly confined their limits within the bounds where the outline nearly coincides with, or but slightly differs from, the projection of cylindrical perspective, and therefore, though drawn for one point, the law of cylindrical perspective is admissible, which permits them to be seen from all, with only a small amount of error. When taken beyond this limit (about 60 degrees), linear perspective fails in its effects.

Surely (in the absence of drawings) these mathematical considerations are enough to decide a strong preponderance in favour of cylindrical perspective, as a system of wider scope and greater power, seeing that even linear perspective owes its excellence to considerations that form an alliance with it.

The principal laws of this system may be thus summed up:—

1st. All parallel straight lines have two vanishing points, which, measured on the generating cylinder, are 180 degrees apart, in which all lines that are in nature parallel to each other terminate.

2nd. The nature of the curves into which the lines are projected (except vertical lines and the horizon) is a wave, the curvature changing at the vanishing point into the contrary direction,—therefore just at the vanishing point the line is perfectly straight; from thence its curvature increases till you get to the centre, which is the point of quickest curvature; in fact, from vanishing point to vanishing point is one-half of the wavy line, so well known as Hogarth's line of beauty, but whether this is a source of excellence I will not now stop to discuss.

3rd. As regards the applicability of the system by artists and draughtsmen, it will, upon the whole, be readier than perspective "as at present taught and practised;" all the vanishing points will either lie within the picture, or not be further from its edge than one quarter of the circumference of the cylinder: we therefore get quit of the nuisance of inaccessible vanishing points, and have, instead, to arrange the curves; but as these will be drawn by a set of properly adapted templates, the change is an advantage, and any portion of the cylinder may be selected that will suit the artist's purpose—30, 60, or 120 degrees of it. The angle under which an object is viewed may be increased or diminished at pleasure by approaching to, or retiring from it.

4th. The space occupied by the representation of an object is horizontally proportional to the angle it subtends; and vertically it is in proportion to the tangent of the angle. This evident property of the system is the basis of its excellence.

For these considerations, but principally because here truth ever travels with the eye, while in linear perspective you must search for it at an eyelet whose position is most carefully concealed, I shall, as far as my own purposes

may require delineation, lay aside "perspective as at present taught and practised," and substitute the cylindrical medium. Its operations are easier: if the angle be small the substitution of one system for the other will not be perceived; and if the angle be large I shall possess the pleasing assurance that I have exchanged the slender, trembling chance of any eye viewing it aright, for the absolute certainty that no eye will view it wrong!

Will artists avail themselves of the same consolation?

GEO. HEALD.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR DEAD?

CETON possesses a great—a giant-like power; it is, therefore, far from an easy matter to wage a successful war against its influences: when, however, it throws its powerful shield over practices that are dangerous to health and happiness, it becomes the duty of all who can disentangle themselves from its spreading meshes to step forth and arm themselves for a battle with it. We moderns have become so accustomed to the practice of committing our dead to the keeping of the earth, that a proposal to deal with them in another way strikes our ears with strangeness, and causes many, when they are informed that the element we would substitute for earth is fire, to start with affected or real horror. Let all who value health, who enjoy happiness and love life, give their earnest support to the society recently brought into existence to carry out the restoration of the ancient mode of sepulture. If there should be some who find it impossible thus violently to break through the bonds of custom, I would ask them to read and ponder well the wise advice given in a late number of this journal, and would say, in reference to that proposition, that there is nothing which will form a safer and better substitute for fire than the material therein referred to, viz., lime.—It being of such a nature that bodies committed to its embrace would be almost as truly burnt as would those placed upon the summit of a funeral pile. It is pretty certain that if we do not close up for ever our town burial-grounds, and send forth the cry of "burn, burn" (either with fire itself, or its substitute, lime), the breezes of the summer and the autumn months, which should come to us laden with the refreshing fragrance of earth, flowers, and fruits, and bearing to our ears the song of rejoicing nature, will, instead, visit us full of the noisome vapours of putrifying matter, and bring to our hearing the sighs of suffering humanity caused by the reappearance in our midst of the gaunt, the frightful spectre,—the pestilence.*

LA FAY.

It is now beyond all doubt a well ascertained fact, that the effluvia generated by the decomposition of animal as well as vegetable matter, is highly prejudicial to a normal condition of the human frame. It is also certain that unwholesome vapours are emitted from churchyards, cemeteries, and other depositories of the dead. It has likewise been observed that at certain seasons and temperatures, when disease is more general, the mortality is considerably greater in the neighbourhood of those quarters where the dead are congregated than in other districts.

The medical officer for the city has made a move in the right direction, and in his recent admirable report, has given it as his opinion that intramural burials are injurious to health, and should therefore be no longer permitted. Now, I submit, that the very reasons that have prompted him to give this advice respecting the city, will also argue against burying in the suburbs, and therefore it becomes necessary to treat the question in another way. I believe a proposition has been made to establish large cemeteries at a distance from town, but seeing that these must one day become the centres of other populations, and considering that by this plan we should be entailing on a future generation the very evils we are now striving to rid ourselves of, I insist this would be only a half measure, and not at all amiable to the rapidly increasing exigencies of this metropolis.

I now, therefore, beg to suggest, that the

* We have received several other letters relative to the paragraph in question, which urged the use of lime, showing a very general acceptance of the advice.

sea be made the common receptacle for the dead. This idea appears to me comprehensive, and I do not know of one feasible objection to its being carried out.

I am aware that some will raise objection to this mode of burial on the score of sentiment, but to my mind the idea is not so repulsive as that of allowing a multitude of our fellow beings to corrupt in the very midst of our homes.

L. L. L.

WELSH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, LLANDOVERY.

ARCHITECT CONTRACTORS.

On receipt of the first of the letters on this subject published last week, we forwarded it to the architects for explanation, and at the moment of going to press, received a reply, in which they say they "have no wish or reason to deny having undertaken the execution of the contract," and that they "think under the circumstances they acted only as professional men should do." "We felt bound," they say, "to fulfil our engagement with the Committee, and saw no other way of so doing, but by entering into the contract ourselves, to get the work carried out according to our drawings and specifications for the amount of our estimate, and to the satisfaction of the Committee, or any one it might appoint to inspect the work. It was, however, distinctly understood, that we were to be considered the architects in all respects, and agreed, that we should receive our regular commission and travelling expenses, the amount of which was inserted in the contract."

"We think you will admit we have acted only as professional men should do."

Since the appearance of our last number, we have received a second communication from Messrs. Fuller and Gingell, for which, as it leaves the main point of the matter exactly where it was, we cannot find space. Messrs. F. and G. think that, in undertaking the contract, they acted, under the circumstances, as architects should do. We are sorry that we cannot agree with them.

We have since received intimation that a provincial fellow of the Institute has contracted for the execution of a design submitted by him, thereby, as we need scarcely say, running the risk of expulsion from the body; one of the special grounds for expulsion being, "for having any interest, or participation in, any trade, contract, or materials supplied at any works, the execution whereof he may be or have been engaged to superintend."

HEADWAY IN STAIRCASES.

COMPETITION PLANS.

A CREDIBLE correspondent says,—“Accident led me the other day to visit a set of new buildings for a union workhouse, erected from a competition design, under the successful competitor, and there I saw what certainly startled me, little as I usually expect from competitions. The central and principal staircase of the main building had been brought to a stand-still, without reaching the first-floor, by the clerk of the works, a man about 5 feet 6 inches high, knocking his head one morning against the step the masons were setting? It was then found out that, if the flight were continued, a man must go up stairs on his knees to save his head—to say nothing of his hat!”—Our correspondent's statement reminds us of old Bush, of "barrack-department" notoriety, in days gone, who finding himself on one occasion in the position of the union-house architect referred to, said he would never let a staircase be begun again without having it first chalked out on the wall!

PUBLIC NECESSITIES.—With reference to this crying necessity, I saw in Brussels what I think may help to remedy the evil, and, in many situations, be beneficially adopted. The bottom part of the lampiron is made to form a niche or recess, containing a grating, and sufficiently large to screen one individual, the entrance facing the road. If such as this were placed at intervals, opposite blank walls or wide openings in the road, properly supplied with water and attended to, they would certainly be a great convenience, without, I apprehend, grossly offending any sense.—H. D.